

THE GULL

Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley, California Volume 67 Number 6 September 1985

12.9



FIRST OF THE FALL PROGRAMS

Our opening program of the '85-'86 season should be a delight for young and old alike. Dr. Joel Parrott, DVM, assistant director of the Oakland Zoo will bring us up to date on developments at the Zoo and its role in the Bay Area.

The Zoo has been improving slowly but steadily in the last few years, both in its programs and in physical provision for its animals. A major thrust has been development of programs aimed at youngsters to create an appreciation and concern for wild animals and the environment. Joel, a longtime Audubon member and former officer of Ohlone Chapter, has been instrumental in developing these programs. Expect Joel and his staff to bring along some special guests - furred, feathered, scaled or whatever. Come and pet a baby whatever.

Join us Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will follow the meeting.

THE OCTOBER MEETING

Meeting in San Francisco, we will hear from East Africa. From Kenya, famed ornithologist Terry Stevensen will present a program on birding in Africa. It is reported that Terry "listed" 308 birds in one 24 hour period. It should be a great evening.

Incidentally, if you have suggestions about future programs please drop me a note at the GGAS office or phone me. And thanks.

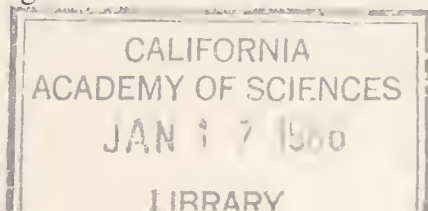
— LEON ABRAMS

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday/Sunday, August 31- September 1 — California Condor Trip. See July/August *Gull* for details.

Please call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) and leave your name, phone number and number in your party if you wish to attend.

Saturday, September 7 — San Mateo Coast. See July/August *Gull* for details.



FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 11 — Mini trip to Alameda South Shore. Meet at **10 a.m.** in Alameda of Broadway and Shoreline Dr. Bring lunch and scopes. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (525)8032).

Saturday/Sunday, September 14-15 — Yosemite National Park. See July/August *Gull* for details.

Sunday, September 15 — Lands End, San Francisco. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the Palace of the Legion of Honor parking lot (Lincoln Park). From Geary Blvd. go north (toward the Bay) on 34th Ave. to the top of the hill (through the golf course) and park in the larger circular lot to the east (right). Lunch optional. We will walk about two miles. Leader: Alan Hopkins (664-0983).

Sunday, September 29 — Point Diablo. Meet at the top of Bunker Hill where we will watch for migrating hawks and land birds between **9 a.m.** and 1:30 p.m. From San Francisco drive north across the Golden Gate Bridge and take Alexander Ave. exit. Turn left as if to return to San Francisco, drive under the freeway and bear to the right. Go up the road to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, continue along the road past the intersection with a road coming up from Rodeo Valley to the large tunnels on the right. Park and walk up the trail to the left of the second tunnel. We will bird from the observation point at the north end of the hilltop. Bring lunch, liquids

and a spotting scope if you have one. Sun screen, a hat and a wind-breaker may be advisable. Co-Leaders: Carter Faust (453-2899) and Herb Brandt (239-2711). (✓)

Saturday, October 5 — Coastal San Francisco. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, Lake Merced and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of migrants found in the area. Bring your lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074).

Sunday, October 6 — Sunol Regional Park. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the Park Headquarters. Take I-680 south, exit at Calavaras Rd., go left and follow the signs to Sunol Park (about 5 miles). Bring lunch. We should see some wintering residents and fall migrants common to the interior. Trip ends after lunch. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). (✓)

Saturday, October 12 — Alameda and San Leandro Bay Shoreline. Meet at **8 a.m.** in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. We will bird the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary and the San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline. Bring lunch and liquids. Shorebirds should be present in numbers so bring a spotting scope if you have one. We should also see some land birds. Leader: Leora Freeney (522-8528)

Saturday, September 12 — Beginners' Trip to Coyote Hills Regional

Park. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the visitors' center. Take Hwy. 17 south to the Decoto Rd. - Rt. 84 exit. Go west on 84 to Newark Blvd.; turn right on Newark to Patterson Ranch Rd., then left on Patterson Ranch Rd. to the park entrance. From San Francisco, cross the San Mateo Bridge, exit right onto Industrial Blvd. Go right again at the signal. Proceed 1½ miles to Hesperian Blvd. Turn right and drive four miles to the park sign. Bring lunch and liquids. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. This is a unique park with fresh-water marsh habitat. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). (✓)

Sunday, October 13 — San Mateo Coast. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** along Hwy. 1 as Pescadero lagoon between the Pescadero beach parking lot and Pescadero Rd. Please carpool to this point if possible because parking is limited and carpooling will be necessary. We will bird at Pescadero, then along the coast to Ano Nuevo (\$). Bring lunch and a jacket; the weather can be cold along the coast. We will be looking for shorebirds. Leader: Alan Hopkins (664-0983). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 724-2116 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

— FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

OBSERVATIONS

**LATE MAY & JUNE
Through July 3**

PELAGICS

A research vessel cruising deep waters off Marin County produced sightings of **Solander's Petrel** 15 miles west of the Farallon Islands. June 3 and **Townsend's Shearwater** following the boat from the Cordelle Banks to 15 miles west on June 16 (both DA, LS). These reports led to Shearwater Journey's chartering trips to explore these waters June 23 and 30. The June 23 boat found up to six **Cook's Petrels** over deep water west of Point Reyes and the Cordelle Banks (RW, JD, SJ, mob). Another Cook's Petrel was reported ten miles west of the Farallones June 30 (TJ). All of these reports must be judged by the California Bird Records Committee. Black-vented Shearwaters were quite out of season, with up to four near the Farallones June 16, five or six there June 30 (both TJ), and about five off Monterey June 29 (SJ).

Exploration of deep ocean waters also discovered significant numbers of Folk-tailed and Leach's Storm-Petrels. The June 23 trip beyond Cordelle Banks had 43 Fork-tails and 13 Leach's (SJ). An albacore boat 40 miles southwest of Cypress Point July 1 found 30 Leach's (RT).

South Polar Skuas appeared early, with three beyond Cordelle Banks June 23 (SJ) and singles off Monterey June 29 (SJ) and July 1 (RT). Up to eight Sabine's Gulls and an Arctic Tern on the June 23 trip were also unseasonal (SJ). A good early count of Xantus' Murrelets was 20 on the June 23 boat

(JM, SJ). Two Tufted Puffins in breeding plumage May 31 10 miles southwest of Moss Landing (SJ) were unusually far south; were they on a **long** foraging flight from SE Farallon Island? This same date marked the first sighting of **Horned Puffin** for this year. It was six miles off Point Pinos (SJ). On June 23, two Horned Puffins were near Cordelle Banks (SJ, mob) and another was three miles west of SE Farallon (EM, et al.). Off Monterey, a **Horned Puffin** was a fly-by bird June 29 (SJ).

OTHER WATERBIRDS

A Red-necked Grebe lingered at Fish Docks to May 29 (mob). Rodeo Lagoon's male Harlequin Duck was seen through June 5 (GH, MP). Monterey County had two Oldsquaws in June, a female at Salinas River Mouth June 7 and a male at Moss Landing June 8-9 (EH, GH).

An observation omitted from the last column was an American Black Oystercatcher at Alameda Naval Air Station May 10 (CS). A Herring Gull at the mouth of Bodega Harbor June 30 (JM, et al.) was especially surprising during summer because it was an adult. A Black-legged Kittiwake in first summer plumage inhabited Drakes Beach May 25-29 (JM, et al., DH). Truly astounding was the discovery of a **Swallow-tailed Gull** in full breeding plumage at Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove June 6-7 (AB, mob), and its resighting at Moss Landing June 8 (EH, et al.). This nocturnal, pelagic gull is endemic to the Galapagos Islands and Humboldt Current off northwestern South America! It's identity beyond question, the origin of this gull will be hotly debated by the California Bird Records Committee and others, but my personal feeling is that it was a wild, unassisted vagrant.

EASTERN VAGRANTS

The spring vagrant landbird season was about average in both quantity and quality. Both SE Farallon Island and the Coast (especially Point Reyes) experienced a fine wave of vagrant May 26-29. The Farallones also, had a protracted movement June 12-19. The second coastal wave also began June 12-13, but clear skies interrupted it on June 14 (LCB). The final wave on the coast arrived June 19-20. These peak days were due to ideal conditions of light west or southwest winds with good visibility below high overcast (PRBO, et al.).

Four Point Reyes sightings of Eastern Kingbird likely represented at least three individuals: RCA Station June 2 (BK, PG), Pierce Point Rd. June 12 (JM), Nunes Ranch June 13 (BL), and Mendoza Ranch June 30 (C & CW). Our four sightings of the very rare **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** were all close in time and were progressively farther north on Point Reyes, suggesting that perhaps only one bird accounted for all four. However, the first was described as a sub-adult (Lighthouse, May 29-, DT, Pgr) while the last two wore adult plumage (south of Abandoned Ranch June 4 - LCB; Pierce Point Rd. June 8 - JT). The plumage of the other sighting (Spaletta Ranch June 2 BW, AS, PG, et al.) was not described, so we cannot tell whether there was only one bird, molting into adult plumage.

A **Gray Catbird** landed on SE Farallon May 29 (PRBO). A singing male **White-eyed Vireo** settled in for a prolonged stay at Muir Beach Community Campground May 26 - June 15 (DH, et al., GH, AE). Conversely, a singing Red-eyed Vireo in Tomales Bay State Park was only observed May 27 (BS). Other Red-eyed Vireos were on

SE Farallon June 14 (PRBO) and at the "new" Point Reyes Willows June 20 (RS, LCB).

The following table of eastern warblers lists 53 individuals of 12 species, excluding the "Myrtle" Warbler, which is shown because the location and date fit the pattern of eastern vagrancy. Totals for the spring vagrant season are 62 individuals and 15 species. The Farallon dates represent arrivals of new birds only (PRBO).

Tennessee Warbler (total 5; 6 for this spring)

2 SE Farallon	May 26, June 21	PRBO
2 Point Reyes	May 26-28; June 20	JM, MLR, et al. LCB, RS, DS

Northern Parula (total 8; 9 for spring)

4 SE Farallon	May 26, June 12 (3)	PRBO
pair Bear Valley HQ	June 1-4 (male to 28th)	BS, EC, PG, mob
pair Five Brooks Pond	June 19 (female to 29th)	RS, SF

Chestnut-sided Warbler (total 4)

2 SE Farallon	May 26, June 18	PRBO
2 Point Reyes	May 27; June 12-13	BDP, KFC, BH; LCB, KFC, mob

Magnolia Warbler (total 5)

2 SE Farallon	June 12	PRBO
1 Point Reyes (Mendoza)	May 26-28	JM, AH, mob
1 Bodega Bay	May 28	LCB, KFC
1 Foothill College	June 13	DS

Cape May Warbler (total 1)

1 Point Reyes (Nunes)	May 28-29	JR, et al.
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"Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler

1 Point Reyes (Lighthouse)	June 20	RS, LCB
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Black-throated Green Warbler (total 1)

1 Point Reyes (Nunes)	May 26-29	JM, et al.
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Blackburnian Warbler (total 1)

1 Point Reyes (Fish Docks)	June 13	BL, RH
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Black-and-white Warbler (total 5)

1 SE Farallon	May 27	PRBO
2 Point Reyes (Mendoza)	May 26, May 27-28	AH, DSi; KFC, BDP, BH, et al.
1 E of Rodeo	June 12	fide GH

Lagoon

1 DeLaveaga Dell, Golden Gate Park	July 3	JMu
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American Redstart (total 7)

3 SE Farallon	May 27, June 12, 18	PRBO
2 Point Reyes	June 12-13, 21	GH, mob, JML
1 Bolinas Lagoon	June 16	DW
1 Lincoln Park, S.F.	June 19	AH

Ovenbird (total 9; 10 for spring)

7 SE Farallon	May 26, June 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 (2)	PRBO
1 Point Reyes (Fish Docks)	June 19-20	JM, GH, et al.
1 Palo Alto	June 2	PN

Kentucky Warbler (total 1)

1 E of Rodeo Lagoon	June 13	AH, MLR, GH
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Hooded Warbler (total 6; 8 for spring)

3 SE Farallon	June 12, 18, 19	PRBO
1 Point Reyes (Fish Docks)	May 27	DSi
1 Andrew Molera St. Park	June 7-22?	JML, et al.
1 Tomales Bay St. Park	June 15-28	BS, mob

An immature male Summer Tanager stopped at Bodega Bay May 28 (KFC, LCB). Perhaps 14 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found as follows:

4 SE Farallon	May 26, 28, June 20 (2)	PRBO
8? Point Reyes	(2) May 26-29 (2 or 3) June 12-13 (3) June 20-21.	mob
1 Bodega Bay	May 28	KFC, LCB
1 Nicasio	June 2	JE

Four or five more Indigo Buntings arrived on SE Farallon: May 26, 28, June 13, 20 (perhaps two) (PRBO). Two Indigos were spotted on the mainland: Fish Docks May 26-27 (JM, et al.), east of Rodeo Lagoon June 12 (fide GH). Very rare in spring was the female **Dickcissel** on SE Farallon June 19 (PRBO). Two Clay-colored Sparrows on May 28 and another on June 12 brought the Farallon total for the spring to five (PRBO). A male Bobolink serenaded Palomarin June

18-22 (PRBO), and a female was found at Marin County's Las Galinas Sewage Ponds June 30 (DT).

OTHER LANDBIRDS

As usual, several of the birds subsumed under this heading could have been eastern vagrants but are not distinguishable as such because the range of each species includes California. A prime example is the Ruby-crowned Kinglet that spent a week at Fish Docks to as late as June 18 (LCB, GH, et al.). While abundant in our colder months, there should be **no** Ruby-crowns in the Bay Area during summer. However, this occurrence fits the pattern of spring vagrants from the east, so I think an eastern origin is more likely than the possibility that this was a western kinglet that lingered six weeks late.

Both nighthawks strayed to Point Reyes, with a Common at Nunes Ranch June 11 (RS) and a Lesser at the Lighthouse June 19 (JM, GH). The Common appears to be the first record for Marin County for this species that breeds one county to the north! Two Costa's Hummingbirds arrived as SE Farallon May 28, a female and an immature male (PRBO).

A yearling male Blue Grosbeak sang at Briones Regional Park June 16 (MP). A Black-chinned Sparrow still sang at Pine Mountain Fire Road June 26 (DT). May 27 brought a Vesper Sparrow to SE Farallon (PRBO). The very tardy Lapland Longspur on the Farallones June 18 (PRBO) is another vagrant I suspect from the east. A Yellow-headed Blackbird brightened Point Reyes Lighthouse June 21 (RS, et al.).

Observers: David Ainley, Alan Baldrige, Laurence C. Binford, Eric Caine, Kurt F. Campbell, Chris Carpenter, Jon Dunn, Al Eisner, Jules Evens, Shawneen Finnigan, Phil Gordon (PG), Peggy Gross (PGr), Ed Harper, Roger Harshaw, Bob Hirt, David Hollway, Alan Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Tom Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Bill Keener, Jeri M. Langham, Bill Lenarz, John Luther, many observers (mob), Joseph Morlan (JM), Elton Morrell, Janet Murphy (JMu), Paul Noble, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Teya M. Penniman), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Jean Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Dan Singer (DSi), Larry Spear, Rich Stallcup, Bob Steward, Audrey Stowe, David Suddjian (DS), Chris Swarth, Richard Ternullo, John Thompson, Dorothy Tobkin, Richard Webster, David Wimpfheimer, Chris Claire Wolf, Betty Wyatt.

— STEPHEN F. BAILEY,
Observations

Editor

Dept. of Ornithology and Mammalogy

California Academy of Sciences

Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

(report observations to Northern
California Rare Bird Alert
843-2211.)

CONSERVATION NOTES

THE WHERE AND WHY OF SALT PONDS

If you drive across the Dumbarton Bridge causeway you cannot help but notice the strange expanses of shallow water bordering the road. Are these large red and green ponds a storage area for toxic wastes? Hardly. Known as salt ponds, they contain highly productive biota that is similar in many ways to that found in super-productive Mono Lake. These ponds were created between 1850 and 1930, and are used by the Leslie Salt Co. for producing salt by evaporating Bay water. They are cut off from the ebb and flood of intertidal waters, and cover about 35,000 acres in the north and south parts of the Bay. They are therefore one of the most extensive wetland habitats in the Bay Area, yet their ecology is very different from the adjacent Bay.

Why then are these ponds so productive? Estuarine organisms cannot live for long in the highly saline water (up to five times the salt content of sea water), but salt-loving algae and certain invertebrates are well suited to this harsh environment. The ponds support tons of brine shrimp, brine flies and waterboatman bugs. These anthropods are in turn prey for legions of waterbirds that feed here throughout the year.

On their way to wintering grounds in Argentina the Wilson's Phalaropes descend by the tens of thousands to feed for a month or so. Later come Sandpipers, gulls, a half a dozen different types of ducks, and the diminutive, but abundant Eared Grebe. In all, over 18 species of waterbird use the ponds extensively during their stay, and eight species can be considered salt pond

specialists that avoid the intertidal waters almost entirely.

By April the breeding species begin to settle in. The miles of low, flat dikes that hold back the Bay and separate ponds have proved to be the perfect nesting substrate for large numbers of Snowy Plover, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, Caspian Terns and Forster's Terns. Occasionally the endangered Least Tern nests here. For most of these species there are no records of nests around the Bay before the salt Ponds were created.

It appears as if man has inadvertently created a new habitat that actually benefits our wildlife. There is, however, a sour (salty?) note to the story. The salt ponds have come with a price; thousands of acres of salt marsh were lost when the ponds were constructed. This is the main reason that the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and the California Clapper Rail are endangered. Destruction of the salt marsh has also deprived the Bay of crucial habitat for intertidal fish, and has reduced feeding and loafing grounds for waterbirds. Additionally, much of the Bay's aquatic life depends upon rich organic detritus contributed by the seasonal die-off of salt marsh vegetation.

Many of the ponds around the Bay are now owned by the San Francisco National Wildlife Refuge, which recognizes their value as waterbird habitat. The operation and maintenance of the ponds, however, is carried out by Leslie and they have a lease giving them control over the ponds. This unusual agreement currently prevents the Refuge from converting any ponds back to intertidal action. If this situation changes, how many ponds should be converted? Who will bear the cost of conversion and the necessary

maintenance of inboard dikes? Will migrants with special diet requirements like Eared Grebe and phalaropes find alternative feeding areas? If some dikes are destroyed, will this jeopardize the tern colonies now located on these structures? These are questions that we may face in the near future. While imminent loss of seasonal wetlands around the Bay demands our immediate attention, we must also become well-informed about other wetlands and their relation to wildlife.

— CHRIS SWARTH,
Conservation Committee

BYE-BYE-SHOREBIRDS

Over the last year we have often talked about the dangers threatening S.F. Bay's wetlands. Perhaps the most critical issue today concerns our seasonal wetlands. In the past, much of the surrounding bay land was marsh. The city of Hayward was mostly marsh 100 years ago. These marshes had little or no tidal action and thus during high tides or storms they were calm areas available to waterfowl for resting and feeding. Especially for shorebirds, feeding can be an all day activity. Before migration, the smaller birds may need to feed up to 22 hours a day. Clearly, during Bay high tides (which cover the food source) these non-tidal marshes are essential. However, as in the example of the Hayward marsh, most of these original marshes (over 90%) have disappeared. Since our waterbirds are still here something must have replaced these marshes. Something has. Behind the manmade dikes that destroyed the original

marshes are low-lying areas that become ponds during our rainy season, often reaching substantial size. These "seasonal" wetlands usually contain typical marsh vegetation and supply this necessary habitat for our waterbirds.

Today, these seasonal wetlands, just a fraction in size of the original marshes, are themselves close to extinction. Development pressures appear to be striking their death knoll. *Every* privately owned seasonal wetland in Alameda county is planned for development. Our adopted refuge, the S.F. Bay Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge may soon be made a mockery. All the seasonal wetlands surrounding it are threatened. If so destroyed, this refuge will no longer be able to support all of its water-bird residents. Those birds forced away will not simply move on. There is only so much habitat. They will most probably die.

Can these seasonal wetlands be saved? This remains unclear. Some protections do exist. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act was written specifically to protect all wetlands (the US Army Corps of Engineers given the regulatory responsibility). Unfortunately, the Act's wording is not always as clear as might be hoped. Faced with legal harassment and developmental pressures the Corps has, to date, done too little to protect our seasonal wetlands. (There are some notable exceptions such as the Corp's denial of the Cullinan Ranch project). Without increased protection, these seasonal wetlands may all disappear by the end of this decade.

Can you help? Yes. You can write Lt. Colonel Andrew M. Perkins, Jr. - District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, SF District, 211 Main St.,

S.F., CA 94105 - and urge him to act more swiftly and decisively on seasonal wetland issues, insist on their preservation as mandated by the Clean Water Act, Sec. 404. You may also write your Congressperson, ask them to put pressure on the Corps to protect our wetlands.

Your Conservation Committee has been working actively on this problem, dealing directly with the Corps over specific wetlands and working on the Federal level as just mentioned. If you want to join this effort either call the office or (282-5937). The need is urgent. I will also be glad to help you frame your letter to the Corps, do give me a call.

— ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

GULLS RETURN TO NEGIT

For the first time since 1979, when Negit Island became connected to the mainland because of the declining water level at Mono Lake, California Gulls have returned to this ancestral nesting site. On May 26 a census team led by Dave Shuford of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory counted 92 nests and an additional 262 "scrapers" (nests not yet with eggs) on Negit. Although this is only a small fraction of the population that nested there formerly, it is very encouraging. The GGAS-purchased gull decoys may have played a role in luring the gulls back. If Negit remains an island next year numbers should be much greater. The surrounding islets now host approximately 38,000 nesting gulls based on Shuford's census.

BACK YARD BIRDER

A seed-feeder is a constant source of amusement for the back yard birder if it's properly placed. Ours hangs within view of the breakfast table and can be seen from the kitchen sink as well. It's hung on a low branch of a flowering crab apple backed by shrubs so even shy birds feels secure, knowing they can beat a hasty retreat. Linnets, titmice, and chickadees feed from the hanging holder. Scrub Jays manage to hang by one toe, scattering seeds below. There are many ground-feeding birds to clean up any leftovers: Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, juncos, plump quail, Song Sparrows (Fox, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows visit in winter) and California Thrashers.

Thrashers are members of the Mockingbird family. The California Thrasher is aptly-named since it resides only in our state and Baja California. "Thrasher" is merely a variant of "thrush." It would make a better story if they were so called because they "thrash" with their long, mobile tails, or were they to "thresh" with their scythe-like bills. These large (11-13" long), handsome, dark brown-olive birds prefer chapparel-covered slopes and avoid dense forests. Most often they can be seen on the ground where they use their bills to rake away leaves or to dig for insects. For variety they add berries, fruits and seeds to their diets. When startled they run for cover, their long tails tilted up. When it comes to "performing" the male belts out his long, low phrases from the top of a bush or tree. He repeats his phrases once or twice, unlike the reptitive song of his cousin the Mockingbird. Since he *is* a member of the clan, he intersperses his song with imitations of other birds (the

(cont. page 133)

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY SECOND ANNUAL WILD BIRD SEED SALE

PICKUP DATE: SATURDAY OCT. 19, 1985 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED: Premium mix, the "Rolls-Royce" of bird seed contains no low cost fillers that birds flick aside. Composed of white and red millet and sudan grass screenings (a favorite of Bay Area birds).

GGAS SPECIAL WILD BIRD SEED MIX: Top quality traditional mix specially blended for us to meet the needs of Bay Area Birds. It contains white and red millet, black oil sunflower seed, milo and rape seed. This mix is superior to any commercial grade wild bird seed sold in the area and is an excellent buy for the money.

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED: According to research done by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology this seed is preferred two to one over the medium striped variety. It is high in oil content and nutritive value and appeals to chickadees and nuthatches, titmice, Scrub and Steller's Jays, finches and many other bird species. This is the best all around food for attracting the largest number of desirable birds.

NIGER (THISTLE SEED): Imported from India, this seed is 98% pure. It is a minute seed rich in nourishing oil. It will attract both American and Lesser Goldfinches, but is unappealing to larger birds and squirrels. It will not sprout in your yard.

VOLUNTEERS:

Like so many Audubon activities, this one depends on volunteers. Please help. Call the office 843-2222. Help is needed in both San Francisco and Berkeley.



In holding its Second Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale GGAS is proud to continue the standards set last year. We are offering the highest quality seed available at the lowest price in the Bay Area. Most of the seed offered in the supermarkets is loaded with inexpensive filler seed such as hemp and other things that our wild birds simply won't eat. With a quality seed like we are able to offer you won't pay for a lot of waste.

The Bay Area is host to an abundance of wintering birds, and with a feeding station you can increase your enjoyment of their time with us. If you buy your seed from GGAS you will not only fill your yard with birdlife, you will put life into the Conservation Committee. The Committee speaks effectively as your voice for wildlife and conservation issues and is heard in Sacramento and Washington, as well as in local government in the Bay Area. Your seed order will help.

Tell your friends and neighbors about the seed sale, too. Additional order forms are available from the GGAS office in Berkeley, or by phone 843-2222.



ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

To benefit GGAS programs you must order and prepay by Oct. 9. Seed orders will be available for pick-up at a distribution point in Berkeley and one in San Francisco. Confirmation of your order and location of the distribution point will be sent you by Oct. 17.

Cancellations of orders cannot be accepted after Oct. 14 and orders received after that date will have to be returned.

Send the order form (with tax calculated, please), your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to BIRD SEED, GGAS, Room 204, 1550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709.

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID
AND RECEIVED BY GGAS BY OCTOBER 9, 1985**

Order Form on next page.

GGAS BIRD SEED SALE

Here is your chance to order your supply of seed for the season. Persons ordering seed will be notified by mail of the pick-up point address before Oct. 17.

ORDER AND PRE-PAY BY OCT. 9
PICK UP ON SATURDAY, OCT. 19

VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED — Premium mix composed of white and red millet and sudan grass screenings. 20 lbs. \$ 8.75
50 lbs. 18.50

GGAS SPEICAL WILD BIRD SEED MIX — Top quality mix specially blended for Bay Area birds composed of white and red millet, black oil sunflower seed, milo and rape seed. 20 lbs. \$ 6.40
50 lbs. 12.30

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED — High in oil content and nutritive value, but smaller than the striped variety. 10 lbs. \$ 8.25
25 lbs. 20.50

NIGER (THISTLE SEED) — This minute seed is rich in nourishing oil and will attract goldfinches, but not larger birds or squirrels, nor will it sprout in your yard. 5 lbs. \$ 8.50

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

Please indicate the location at which you prefer to pick up your order:
() San Francisco () Berkeley

ITEM	WEIGHT	QUANTITY	COST	TOTAL
VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs.		8.75	
	50 lbs.		18.50	
GGAS SPECIAL WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs.		6.40	
	50 lbs.		12.30	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	10 lbs.		8.25	
	25 lbs.		20.50	
NIGER (THISTLE SEED)	5 lbs.		8.60	
Field Guide to the Birds of North America (Nat. Geographic) _____			\$16.95	
ADD 6.5% TAX _____				
CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS _____				
TOTAL _____				

BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR CHECK,
AND STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

quail, flicker or red-tailed hawk are favorites), tossing in an occasional frog croak or other familiar sound. In the air the thrasher looks quite awkward, his flight being jerky with both head and tail drooping. Both parents build a nest well-hidden inside a bush only a few feet from the ground. The 2 to 4 eggs are incubated by both sexes for 14 days. After fledging (12-14 days) the male continued to feed the children while the female incubates a second set of eggs.

My yard would certainly be dull without the thrashers and the many other varieties of birds which are attracted by the plants, feeders and water which we make available to them.

— MEG PAULETICH

ADULT VOLUNTEER DOCENTS

The Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum of Walnut Creek is now accepting inquiries and applications and applications from adults who wish to become volunteer docents.

Docent trainees are expected to attend a two hour orientation on Sept. 23 and continuing training sessions are each Monday from 10 to noon until May, 1986. Volunteers learn how to handle live animals and gain a thorough knowledge of each animal. Docents also have opportunities to visit other places of interest not generally accessible to the public.

Trained Docents guide scheduled groups through the museum. They also take the museum programs into local schools and libraries thus providing enriching experience for the youth in informal and formal educational environments.

For information about the docent program please call Pat McRae at the Museum office, 935-1978.

ALAMEDA BIRDWALKS

Fall weekly birdwalks begin in Alameda Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 9:30 a.m. in Lincoln Park Center, High St. and Santa Clara Ave. Sponsored by the Alameda Park and Recreation Dept., the two-hour walks are led by Patricia Boese, past-president of GGAS. Habitats visited include open field, tidal marsh, sandy beach and rocky shore. The fee for six sessions is \$20. For information phone 522-4100, ext. 4100 or 339-8374.

FREMONT BIRDING CLASSES

The Fremont Adult School will again offer "Birding Field Trips" with Alice Hoch of Ohlone Audubon and SFBBO. Students will observe and learn about field identification, life styles and ecology of local birds during trips to different birding spots each Tuesday morning. The class is for both beginning and experienced birders and will be limited to 18 students.

It will begin Sept. 10 and end Oct. 15. The class will meet at 9:30 a.m. and last until 12:30 p.m. Registration will be at the first class in the Conference Room, Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. For information phone 791-5841 or 657-0475.

Point Reyes Field Trip

Saturday, Sept. 28 the Fremont Adult School will offer a birding trip to the Point Reyes National Seashore. Favorable tides and fall migration will bring many species of shorebirds, ducks, herons and gulls. The class is designed for both beginning and experienced birders.

It will begin at 9 a.m. at the parking lot at Fremont Adult School and will end at or after 3 p.m. at Point Reyes. Students who wish to meet the class at

Point Reyes should phone the instructor, Alice Hock (657-0475). Students are responsible for their own transportation, but carpools will be arranged. The class will be limited to 15 students, and pre-registration is required. The fee is \$10.50. Register in person or by mail (include a stamped, addressed envelope) for confirmation. On Saturday bring binoculars, lunch, beverages, snacks, comfortable, sturdy shoes and warm clothing. For information phone the School or the Instructor.

PIEDMONT BIRDING CLASS

Dr. Michael Perrone will again offer a birding class through Piedmont Adult School. The course, sponsored by GGAS, will concentrate on fall migrant shorebirds, waterbirds and hawks. It will emphasize identification of these birds by their behavior, habitat, appearance and voice. It includes six evening classroom lectures illustrated with color slides, and several Saturday morning bird walks, including a trip to the Point Diablo hawk lookout. Fieldtrip details will be announced in class. Bring a bird guide, preferably the National Geographic Society Guide (available at GGAS office) or the Golden Guide by Robbins, et al.

For information phone Piedmont Adult School, 653-9454 or 658-3679, day or night. The class starts Wednesday Sept. 25 and ends Saturday, Nov. 2. It will meet at Piedmont High School, 800 Magnolia Ave.

SAN FRANCISCO FALL BIRDING CLASSES

You can still join one of **Joe Morlan's** classes in the current series. Ornithology I, II, and III meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Room 227 at the Marina Middle School, corner of Filmore and

Bay Sts. See The GULL for July-August or call the John Adams Community College Center at 346-7044 or 239-3070 for more information. The classes are free.

PRBO EXCURSIONS

The following are offered by Point Reyes Bird Observatory:

WADERS AND SHOREBIRDS Aug. 30 (eve.) - Sept. 1. Rich Stallcup and Gary Page scheduled this excursion to coincide with the peak migratory passage of shorebirds. Focus is on habits and habitats, aging and sexing, time-budgeting and foraging behavior, as well as identification of waders.

MONTEREY SEABIRDS Oct. 19-20. Rich Stallcup emphasizes identification and behavior of seabirds and shorebirds while birding the breakwaters, river mouths, dunes and rocky shores on Saturday and from the boat on Monterey Bay on Sunday.

GREAT BASIN WINTER BIRDS - Thanksgiving weekend. The lure of this trip is the thousands of geese seen against the backdrop of the wild and glorious open spaces of the Great Basin Desert. Dave Shuford leads us north from Honey Lake toward Tule Lake to find eagles, hawks, owls and northern specialties.

COSTA RICA Feb. 14-23, 1986. An ultimate in tropical bird and wildlife experiences. PRBO Biologist, Peter Pyle, takes us to virgin tropical forests of Corcovado National Park and the cloud-forest of Monteverde. We find a rich variety — everything from macaws, sloths, orchids and butterflies to bellbirds and the Resplendent Quetzal.

For information and reservations please phone Linda Parker (415) 868-1221 or write her at PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch - Shoreline Hwy. Stinson Beach, Ca., (415) 663-1212. Sanctuaries & Wildlife Centers under the joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies, Flora MacIise, Chairman.

Seasonal totals for 1985 show over 3500 people used the Bolinas and Bouverie Audubon Preserves docent lead education programs. From March to May Bouverie was visited by 1305 children and 457 adults. Bolinas Preserve had 51 educational groups with a total of more than 1800 students and 20,000 additional weekend and holiday visitors.

As of late June the heronry was complete with 111 Great Egret nests, 82 with young, and 29 with eggs, and 16 Great Blue Heron nests with 15 young birds ready to fly and still one with eggs. The central area of nesting trees was avoided this year by many birds who choose to build around the edges of the groves, thus expanding the heronry's perimeter.

During the summer the Ranch received national press coverage. In the June issue of TRAVEL AND LEISURE the Bolinas Preserve was included as one of the "scenic wonders beyond San Francisco". The July issue of HOUSE AND GARDEN featured the "Naturally Grand" northern California ranch of David Bouverie.

Other coverage included feature stories on the Bolinas property in the SANTA ROSA NEWS HERALD and in US leasing's INSIGHT. first in a series of articles it plans to publish on non-profit organizations to which the company has contributed. US Leasing contributed the Ranch's Apple II computer.

New in May was a publication from the Ranch giving an overview of the

three properties and an up-date on activities at each. Simply called AUDUBON CANYON RANCH it may be published annually.

The bridge at the Bolinas Ranch was dedicated June 9 in memory of Roger Hayne Sherrin, whose family contributed its cost. The ribbon-cutting and picnic lunch were attended by his wife, Carol, his children, Ellen and Derek, and other relatives, friends and board members.

COOPERS SOCIETY MEETING

The first meeting of the fall will be Monday, September 9, with a brief business meeting at 7:45 and at 8 p.m. a talk by Bill Carmen, a doctoral student at UC Berkeley. His subject will be "Food Storage and Social Behavior in the California Scrub Jay". Bill has been working on jays for five years at Hastings Reservation, central coastal California. The group will meet in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For Mono Lake	Gift of
In Honor of	
Newborn Daniel Mayor Wallfield	
& his parents Louise & Don	
Linda De Luschi	
For Audubon Canyon Ranch	
In Memory of	
Isabel Pember	Don & Rosie Sanford

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave. #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

— SECOND CLASS MATTER



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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.